



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Dacek

For Immediate Release

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Statement by Councilmember Nancy Dacek on the Proposed Ban on Use of Indian-Related Names for County School Sports Teams

"The idea of banning County school sports teams from using such nicknames as 'Indians' and 'Warriors' is just not a good idea.

"Such names are not pejoratives. And, we must ask, what's next?

"Will we ban 'Vikings' to avoid even the appearance of offending Scandinavians? Or teams called the 'Spartans' to assuage Greeks?

"The nickname 'Patriots' might well offend those whose ancestors fought for King George III back when. And will we ban the 'Cornhuskers' to avoid offending farmers and the 'Fighting Irish' to keep our Irish friends happy?

"And wait until animal rights folks open up on the 'Bulldogs' and 'Screaming Eagles,' the 'Razorbacks' and the 'Tigers.'

"I don't want to see the day when our sports teams are reduced to being called the 'Daisies' and the 'Snowpersons.'

"It was wrong when the Governor's Task Force suggested boycotting Germantown Little League teams called the 'Braves' and the 'Indians' and this is wrong also. It is nothing less than using our kids as props for playing politics.

"Why not do what Poolesville High School already has done? Have a discussion and debate involving advocates on both sides of the question, then let the individual school communities decide. If the case for change is so compelling, then the proponents have nothing to worry about. And we should abide by the result – not issue directives from on high."

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